

CONTACT



Waving welcome

See pages 8-9 & 14-16

CAM International, founded in 1915 by William Burton and James Salter, ministers in DR Congo, Zambia, Ethiopia, Mozambique and the African diaspora.



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COVER PHOTO

WAVING WELCOME

One of the constants of life in Africa is receiving a warm welcome from village children everywhere you go.

(See pages 8-9 & 14-16)

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LOOKING BACK WITH GRATITUDE: 2025

by Kym Delpont

As we step into a new year, our hearts are full of gratitude to God for all that has been accomplished through your prayers, generosity, and partnership in mission. Every project completed or begun over the past year stands as a testimony to His faithfulness and to what can be achieved when Christians work together for His glory.

Powering a community with hope

In 2025, we were able to repair and develop the hydro-electric system at Lwamba hospital, DR Congo, which serves several villages. Reliable electricity now powers essential operations, preserves medicines, and provides lighting and hot water - transforming daily life for medical staff and patients alike.

Building the future through education

One of our greatest joys this past year has been helping with the construction and equipping of a new primary school in Mozambique. Where once there was only a pre-school, now more children are offered the chance to grow in knowledge and

faith. This school will educate and nurture young people who will go on to bless their communities for generations to come.

Equipping leaders for the harvest

CAM has continued to support Bible schools in DR Congo and Zambia, as well as online training from the UK - encouraging spiritual growth and leadership development. By investing in future leaders, we are sowing seeds that will yield an eternal harvest.

Growing the Church, expanding the Kingdom

Church planting remains an important part of CAM's mission. In the past year, new congregations have been established in Ethiopia, including in hard-to-reach areas. Each new place of worship stands as a beacon of hope, declaring that Christ is building His Church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.

God's provision

As we reflect on 2025, we recognise that none of this would have been possible without God's provision and your faithful partnership in prayer

▲ (above - left to right) Hydro-electric system repairs - Lwamba; Primary school children complete the school year - Mozambique; Graduating Bible School students - DR Congo



and giving. Together, we have seen communities empowered, lives transformed, and the gospel advanced.

"The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy."

Psalm 126:3

Moving forward in faith: 2026

As we enter 2026, we do so with renewed commitment - to go further, serve more, and continue being instruments of God's love in a world that so greatly needs Him.

We step forward in faith, trusting that the same God who has been faithful in the past will continue to guide and bless His work in the days ahead. We believe that God is on the move - and so is CAM. We are not called to stand still or rely on past achievements. Movement is vital. God is expanding His work, and we are committed to moving with Him.

A new look

You may have noticed in recent issues of CONTACT that CAM has a new logo. This fresh design marks a new chapter as we continue to move onwards and outwards in mission.

A new home

After 76 years at 355 Blackpool Road, Preston, CAM UK is relocating to new premises in Preston.

This move reflects our renewed vision and the growth God is bringing. The new building offers greater accessibility, expanded office space, modern conference facilities, and ample parking - essentials for the work ahead. At the time of writing (late November) the sale has completed and the purchase is nearing completion. We are hopeful we will be able to move in very soon.

A new team member

We're also delighted to welcome Sharon James as our new Office Manager, based in the Preston office since November. She joins at a pivotal moment in CAM's journey, allowing her to be part of the office move from the very beginning. We thank God for her gifts and look forward to all that He will do through her role.

A new missionary family

In 2025, a lovely Brazilian couple applied to serve as missionaries with CAM. Their application was successful, and we are delighted to introduce them to you. Please join us in praying for them as they prepare to begin their mission in Mozambique in December 2026 (see pages 10-11).

As we look to the year ahead, we remain deeply grateful for your ongoing prayers and support. Please continue to pray for each member of our team as we move forward with purpose, boldly embracing the call to GO for GOD.

HAPPY NEW YEAR to you all!

▲ (above - left to right) 355 Blackpool Road - office for 76 years; Sharon James; New missionary family!

INTRODUCING THE LUNDA BIBLICAL RESOURCE TEAM

by Chris and Robin Kretschman

God has brought together a devoted team of believers who share a common passion: to equip pastors, elders, deacons, Bible teachers, evangelists, and other Christians with high-quality Biblical materials in the Lunda language.

Diverse team, same goals

The Lunda Biblical Resource Team (LBRT) reflects the richness of God's providence through its diversity. The team includes the director of the Nyangombe Christian Training Centre (NCTC) Bible school, a village headman, former and current school headmasters, and other gifted individuals with expertise in anthropology, translation, linguistics, and curriculum development.



The first Lunda workbook, *The Story of Jesus*, was printed in the United States and successfully shipped to Zambia—arriving just in time for use during the October Bible school sessions.

This workbook presents the stories, parables, and teachings of Jesus through a unified view of all four Gospels, offering a deeper understanding of His life and ministry. Students quickly embraced the workbook format, which features a chronological outline, parallel Gospel passages on each topic, and dedicated note-taking sections throughout.



▲ Working together to translate

Ancient wisdom to a new audience



The second workbook, *The Kings of Israel*, has also been completed and is now in the printing stage. This resource harmonises the accounts from 1 Kings, 2 Kings, and 2 Chronicles, emphasising life applications and leadership principles relevant to today's church leaders. Students are encouraged to reflect on these truths and apply them in their own ministries.



The third workbook, *The Reign of King David*, has been fully translated and carefully reviewed through the LBRT's meticulous evaluation process—guided by a set of standards the team developed during a three-day retreat. This workbook explores how David pursued God with his whole heart and overcame his sin. It, too, is currently being printed.

Most recently, the LBRT has completed a booklet of key Scriptures defining essential Christian doctrines. The first printing of this resource was distributed to church leaders during the October Bible school sessions.

Important ministry, essential support

Looking ahead, the team is developing a comprehensive five-volume Old Testament overview, which is now underway. We invite your continued prayers for the LBRT—that the team would remain prayerful, discerning, and responsive to God's guidance as they carry forward this important ministry.



▲ The recently completed Christian doctrine booklet in use

LOST IN TRANSLATION

by Kym Delport

*A light-hearted look at mission, language,
and the challenge of idioms!*

Cross-cultural mission is a noble calling. But if we're honest, it's not always a walk in the park. One of the less glamorous, often-overlooked challenges that missionaries and local believers face is language — not just vocabulary or grammar, but the deeper cultural layers embedded in how we speak.

Easier said than done!

Take a CAM missionary I know, fluent in Swahili. She shared how she interpreted a visiting speaker's sermon about how Christians should be *living on the cutting edge!* The message itself? Sound. The theology? Spot on. The delivery? Full of idioms. And suddenly, the interpreter is *up the creek without a paddle*. A few phrases like that, and the intended message can fall flat.

Even everyday Christian language can get murky. We say things like 'on fire for God', 'stepping out in faith', or 'laying it all at the foot of the cross.' These are rich, meaningful expressions — but translating them can feel like theological gymnastics.

When CAM Bible translators worked on the Kiluba and Kisongye Bibles in Congo, they had to dig deep — not just linguistically, but culturally. Involving local believers was essential in shaping how key Biblical phrases and illustrations were expressed in a way that made sense. It wasn't only about translating the words; it was about communicating meaning.

Don't beat around the bush!

It isn't just a challenge for missionaries. In our own neighbourhoods and workplaces, it's something worth keeping in mind. Phrases like 'I was lost but now I'm found' — lost where, exactly? Or 'I'm covered by the blood' — without context, it's not exactly a comforting image. Christian language can be full of powerful idioms, but to the uninitiated it can sound more puzzling than profound.

So, what do we do? Maybe part of the challenge — and the fun — is learning to share the good



▲ Andrew Ramsey interpreting a French message into English



Christiane Munn collaborating with local Kisongye Bible translators ▲

news in ways that are clear, faithful, and connect with people who may come from vastly different worldviews and cultural backgrounds. If that means dropping a few ‘Britishisms’ or ‘Christianese’ phrases along the way, well — *no skin off our nose!*

Here is a tongue-in-cheek example from a well-known Bible story:

'A giant problem becomes a piece of cake!'

Things were a bit tense in the Valley of Elah. The Israelites were *walking on eggshells*, avoiding eye contact with the Philistines, especially the nine-foot giant who showed up every morning, *like clockwork, shouting the odds*, and daring someone to *take a swing if they thought they were hard enough*. Tensions were high. Morale was low. The Israelites wanted to *throw in the towel*. Frankly, they were *as much use as a chocolate teapot*.

Enter David. He wasn't in the army — just a young shepherd lad sent by his dad to deliver packed lunches. But when he overheard Goliath *mouthin' off*, he *didn't turn a blind eye*. No, he *bit the bullet* and said, ‘Who's this uncircumcised Philistine having a go at the living God?’ Someone needed to do something, and *he was game*.

Meanwhile, King Saul was *hiding his head in the sand*. So, David went to Saul. ‘You?!’ Saul said. ‘*You're pulling my leg!* You'll be lucky to escape *by the skin of your teeth!*’ But David *hit the nail on the head*: ‘It's not about me. The Lord's done it before, and He'll do it again.’ Saul shrugged. ‘Well, *go break a leg!*’

So off David went, *cool as a cucumber*, with nothing but a sling and five smooth stones. Goliath saw him coming and *laughed his head off*. David didn't flinch. ‘You come at me with spear and sword; I come at you in the name of the Lord.’

Next thing you know — whack — stone flies, giant *drops like a sack of spuds*. *Down for the count!*

David may have only come to deliver the sandwiches, but he ended up delivering something far more powerful.

Get your message across!

In mission — whether cross-cultural or just across the street — clear, meaningful communication matters. Sometimes the right words, in the right moment, can hit the mark better than any well-polished phrase. And thankfully, you don't need to be a giant to make a giant impact.





MANY ARE THE PLANS

PART 2: GOD'S PLANS ARE ALWAYS THE BEST

by Paul Stephenson



In the last edition of CONTACT, I shared how God used a visa delay to prevent Nick and me from being caught up in the aftermath of a lorry crash on the way to Lwamba. This second part of the story picks up as we continued our journey – crossing the Congo River – and again seeing how God's plans, though different from ours, are always better.

The first day of our journey to Lwamba ended with an overnight stop at Mulongo, a former Brethren mission station and hospital. The hospital is now run by a Congolese Christian doctor and his team, who kindly allowed us to stay in one of the old mission houses, which is now used as a guest house.



▲ (top) En route ▲ (above) Lorries queuing



▲ Our little vehicle between two giants!



▲ Paul and Nick crossing the Congo river



▲ Newly graded road

Preparing the way

When the doctor heard we intended to cross the Congo River by ferry the next morning, he said he knew the man in charge - a former patient's relative - and would call ahead. Thanks to that call, when we arrived early, we were put on the very first crossing, ahead of the long line of waiting trucks.

To understand what a blessing this was, it helps to know how slow the ferry crossing usually is. Each lorry must first be completely unloaded on the riverbank. The empty lorry is then ferried across to the other side. The ferry returns to collect the huge load to take it over to the waiting lorry, where the goods are offloaded. Only then can the ferry return for the next lorry, and the whole process begins again.

This can take many hours, so to be waved on first, without delay, was an enormous blessing. We crossed quickly and safely, once again praising the Lord for going before us and preparing the way.

After crossing, we made good progress on the improved road up to the Mwanza turn-off, about 35 miles from Lwamba. Beyond that point, we knew the road would be rough - steep climbs, deep wash-aways, rocks, and thick overgrowth. In the dry season, it usually takes four hours. (Once, in the wet season, it took me three days!)

Crooked roads made straight

But just half a mile in, we were amazed to find the road newly widened and levelled. The wash-aways had been filled, and trees cleared to widen the road. There were no tyre tracks, so we were obviously the first to drive on it. After several miles we saw dust ahead and soon caught up with a large road-clearing tractor driven by a Chinese worker. We never found out why the work was being done, as there are no mines or projects that far inland. So, as we passed him, we once again praised God for preparing the way before us. (On our return journey, we saw the work had stopped not far beyond where we'd met the tractor.)

From there, the road became rough again, but we were glad to find that two log bridges and a swampy stretch had been repaired. We reached Lwamba mid-afternoon to a joyful, noisy welcome. All our tightly-packed equipment arrived intact - and, to our amazement, even our tray of two dozen eggs survived the journey without a crack!

Overflowing provision

The journey, which we had not been looking forward to, became one of praise and wonder for God's goodness and provision - a lasting reminder that God's plans are always the best.



A FAMILY READY TO SERVE

by Kym Delport

André and Luciana Ferreira prepare for mission in Mozambique

It was a real joy to meet online with André and Luciana - a lovely couple whose hearts are firmly set on long-term mission service in Mozambique with their family. Having recently been accepted as missionaries with CAM International, they are prayerfully preparing to move to the city of Chimoio at the end of 2026.

Preparing the way

There are several important steps still to be completed before they can go. André and Luciana have two adopted children but, after nine years, they are still waiting for the official documents to be finalised - a vital requirement before they can travel. Please join them in praying that this process will be completed soon.

Their son, Kauã, has just turned 18 and will begin university in February 2026, studying sport and theology. He already has a heart to join his parents in Mozambique once he finishes his degree, with a vision to start football and sports outreach programmes. Their daughter, Agatha, is excited to move with them and begin this new chapter of family and ministry life.

The family hope to move into a house next door to the Baruk Training Centre in Chimoio. However, the property needs extensive renovation before it is habitable. André plans to travel out ahead of the family in March or April 2026 to begin the building work and prepare the home. If all goes to plan, the family hope to leave for Mozambique together in December 2026.



▲ (top) The Ferreira family

▲ We Love Missions! Promoting missions at church



▲ (left to right) Natural and Biblical healing of the body and the soul; Luciana in Chimoio in 2010; Dressed for Africa!

'In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.'

Proverbs 16:9

Ministry plans

André looks forward to teaching at the local Bible school and offering practical training courses at the Baruk Centre, helping to equip students for both ministry and daily life. Luciana's heart is in health and natural remedies - particularly in helping those affected by AIDS and other diseases. As she puts it, her desire is 'to treat the body in order to reach the soul.'

Luciana already knows and loves the people of Chimoio, having served there on previous short-term trips. For her, this move feels like returning home. André, meanwhile, anticipates some cultural adjustment, especially with church life differing from what he knows in Brazil, but he is excited to experience the warmth - both of the climate and of the people!

Looking ahead

The family are currently working with Wanderley and Rosaria, their friends and field contacts, to finalise visa arrangements, create a budget, and plan for their support needs. They will begin visiting churches and raising support once their

adoption papers are complete and Kauã has settled into university. Their home church is fully behind them in prayer and pastoral care.

How you can pray

Please pray with André and Luciana for:

- **Finalisation of the adoption process** so they can travel freely as a family.
- **Smooth visa applications** and favour with the authorities.
- **Provision for financial support** as they begin to raise funds.
- **Resources for renovating their future home** in Chimoio.
- **Good health**, especially for Luciana as she awaits cataract surgery and ongoing glaucoma care.

As André and Luciana look to the Lord to open each door in His timing, we trust that He will faithfully guide each step of the way.

STOP PRESS

Adoption certificates just received. Praise God!

CLOSING THE YEAR WITH JOY



by Wanderley da Silva

We are, at the time of writing - November 2025, coming to the end of another school year at the Baruk Centre, and it is with great joy that we can see the progress our pre-school children have made. Throughout these past few months, they have grown significantly in knowledge and improved their behaviour considerably.

It has been wonderful to see their interest in Bible stories, songs, games, and classroom activities grow. Each child has had the opportunity to progress at their own pace and has shown a dedication and willingness to learn.

Preparations for celebrations!

We are now preparing for the pre-school graduation and the closing of the school year — a special time to celebrate everyone's efforts. The children are practising and reviewing what they have learned and are getting ready for this long-awaited event.

We are also very pleased to share that we are in the process of painting the new primary school classrooms — an important step that represents growth and new opportunities to welcome more pupils during the next school year, and to offer an even better environment for their learning. Each wall painted is a reminder of God's care and provision in every detail.

Honouring teachers

On 12 October, we had the joy of celebrating Teachers' Day in a very special way. We organised an away-day, to celebrate the hard work of our primary and pre-school teachers. We chose the



▲ Outdoor lessons for pre-school pupils

'Friendship Waterfall' as the venue - a blessed place that offered moments of rest, fellowship, and renewal.

We began our day with a time of devotion, reflecting on the theme 'The Value of My Seed,' based on Galatians 6:9 which says, 'Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.' It was a moment of spiritual edification that reminded us of the importance of sowing with faith, love, and dedication in the lives of each pupil and in everything we do. Afterwards, we enjoyed games and moments of joy and relaxation - strengthening our bonds of friendship and unity. We also shared a delicious lunch, lovingly prepared by the organising team, and we concluded the day with a special cake to mark the occasion.

It was an unforgettable day, filled with gratitude and fellowship. We thank everyone who participated and contributed to making this celebration so meaningful. May we continue steadfastly, sowing with love and reaping fruits of transformation!

Praise God for papayas!

Another way we have experienced God's abundant provision this year is through a wonderful fruit harvest.

The papayas were distinct not only due to their size — some weighing more than three kilos (nearly seven pounds!) — but also for their soft texture and the intense aroma that filled the air as soon as they were picked. Anyone who tasted them immediately noticed the difference: it was described as an explosion of tropical flavour that delighted the palate and evoked memories of ripe fruit freshly picked from the tree. We thank the Lord that he has provided for us in every way this year.

Thank you!

We wanted to express our thanks to all who have been part of the work of running the schools — teachers, invigilators, staff, families, and friends of the project. Every act of love, support, and dedication has made a difference in the lives of our children.

We also thank God for allowing us to come this far. May this closing season be marked by gratitude and hope, remembering that every seed planted will continue to grow, bearing fruits of learning, faith, and love.

We ask the Lord to renew and strengthen us, so that we may continue fulfilling His purpose with joy and faithfulness as we care for and teach the children He has entrusted to us.

**"May the favour of the
Lord our God rest on us;
establish the work of our
hands for us—yes, establish
the work of our hands."**

Psalm 90:17



▲ (above – top to bottom) Wanderley with the prized papayas;
Celebrating Teacher's Day together; Wanderley and Rosaria da Silva



LIFE IN THE AFRICAN BUSH AND THE UK: 50 DIFFERENCES

by Gordon McKillop

My Dad used to say, when he read articles on CAM missions, that the things which stuck in his mind and enabled him to pray with more understanding were comparisons between missionary life and life in the West. I began compiling many of these comparisons decades ago, both as scribbled notes and in my mind, because after a period of some years in the African bush they become absolutely normal. Life in Africa is very different from UK life, so here are some of my observations of differences:

- 1 Taking patients to hospital, day or night, in our own vehicle.
- 2 Being woken at night by watchmen when a problem arises.
- 3 Having crowds of children follow me wherever I go.
- 4 Wakening early in the morning to the cry of cockerels or guinea fowl.
- 5 Bats suddenly swooping unexpectedly through the living room!
- 6 Always carrying a torch when stepping outside after dark.
- 7 Being known by name by everyone for many miles around.
- 8 Greeting everyone I meet by putting my hands together or laying my right hand on my chest.
- 9 Seeing crowds of people coming to my house to greet me whenever I have been away.
- 10 Doing grocery shopping every three or four months, 200 miles from home.
- 11 Christmas cards arriving by post in June.
- 12 Ordering spares and medical supplies up to a year in advance.
- 13 Seeing miracles that still amaze us.
- 14 Women openly breast feeding their babies when talking with you.
- 15 Donating blood for patients.
- 16 Having goats, chickens, and, sometimes, cows in our garden.
- 17 Not using tap water for cleaning teeth.
- 18 Bath water the colour of tea in the rainy season.
- 19 Eating local food from shared dishes – using only my fingers.
- 20 Never going on a car journey without a full carload of passengers.
- 21 Not seeing family for long periods.
- 22 Using our Land Cruiser as a hearse.
- 23 Keeping a badminton racket handy – for the bats in the house.
- 24 Killing scorpions in the house during the hot season.
- 25 Finding a snake in the house.
- 26 Constantly checking the path for snakes when out walking.



▲ Travelling to youth camp in style



▲ Hidden in a kid's toy, the snake didn't see its end coming!

27 Tapping out my boots before putting them on (scorpions or bats!)

28 Having a 'snake stick' in its designated spot in the house.

29 Shooting rabid wild dogs on sight.

30 Throwing all rubbish into a pit and burning it.

31 Dust, dust, and more dust—everywhere—through the dry season!

32 Keeping candles and matches available in case of power failures.

33 Making meals with whatever is left in the fridge or cupboards.

34 Sleeping under a mosquito net every night.

35 Taking anti-malaria tablets every day.

36 Sharing the house with geckos, ants, spiders, beetles, and other crawling insects.

37 Seeing someone celebrate when they have bought their own Lunda Bible.

38 Speaking and even dreaming in a different language.

39 Seeing as many as five people on one motorbike!

40 Not seeing rain for six months.

41 Seeing Zambian ladies carrying huge loads on their heads.

42 Praying for and with people anywhere you meet them.

43 Seeing massive pigs being transported on bicycle carriers.

44 Temperatures above 300°C (860°F).

45 Not hearing any English in church services.

46 Giving way on the roads to oxcarts driven by children.

47 Receiving up to 30 visitors at the house every day.

48 Frequently walking with families through bereavements.

49 The complete unpredictability of daily life.

50 Feeling, despite everything, that the African bush is home!



▲ A herd of cattle – staying out of the garden for the moment



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355 BLACKPOOL ROAD, PRESTON PR2 3AB



▲ Five on a motorbike

A life of humble service

Almost daily, we begin with a plan for the day, but find it is rarely possible to achieve more than a third of our 'to do' list. A medical crisis, an accident in a local village, a family faces bereavement, a widow's house collapses, water runs out, or even a cow falls into an unseen pit - somehow people think that you may have a solution to their pressing problems. The work is rewarding but can be very challenging. There is

no escape from the problems and heartaches of this world, and caring for others often translates to being 'compelled' to serve, even when we might feel that we simply cannot take anymore and want to shut ourselves off from the world and its constant needs.

Perhaps the apostle Paul, as a missionary, felt the same way when he wrote:

'Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.'

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

PDF version

Please note that the **Contact Magazine** is also available as a PDF version. This may be useful for those who travel, or who would benefit from enlarging the print on the computer. If so, please send an email to the CAM office and we will put your name on the PDF mailing list.

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